Ocean Sci. Discuss., 7, 121-141, 2010
www.ocean-sci-discuss.net/7/121/2010/

Operational oceanography in support to indicator reporting

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Abstract. Operational Oceanography (OO) has now emerged to a stage that allows the design, development and execution of marine core services tailored to user requirements. As such it is also feasible to provide routine production of environmental and climate indicators. Indicators are synthetic indices of environmental changes at various temporal and spatial scales. In this paper we outline the possible contribution and strengthening of existing indicator reporting based on OO products followed by a discussion of the relevance of such improved reporting for marine environmental policy implementation and regulation. In particular, it capitalizes on the main achievements of the Marine Environment and Security of the European Area (MERSEA) project, the outcome of a European Marine Monitoring and Assessment (EMMA) workshop on the connection between operational oceanography and the European Marine Strategy (EMS) Directive and the regular European Environmental Agency (EEA) assessment reports.